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Austrian Newsletter

April – May 2019



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Ongoing

Milein Cosman: Lifelines

Visual Arts Until Wednesday 17 April,
Clare Hall Cambridge

Clare Hall presents its second exhibition of the art of Milein Cosman, who during her long life drew many of the leading cultural figures of the 20th century. This exhibition presents some of her renowned images of musicians, writers and artists, including her husband, Hans Keller. The exhibition coincides with the centenary of Hans Keller.

Clare Hall, University of Cambridge,
Herschel Rd, Cambridge CB3 9AL
www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk

Wolf Suschitzky Photography Prize Exhibition

Visual Arts Until Friday 26 April,
ACF London

Presenting the winners and shortlisted artists of a new photography prize launched by the ACF London in tribute to the late Austrian émigré photographer Wolf Suschitzky. Featuring winners Paul Hart (UK) and Marylise Vigneau (Austria) alongside the shortlisted photographers:



Marylise Vigneau, *Teatro Campoamor*,
Havana, Cuba, 2017

from Austria: Kathrin Delhougne, Mario Kiesenhofer, Naa Teki Lebar and Siegmund Skalar; and from the UK: Lilli Burrridge Payne, Christopher Gunson, Anita Strasser and Alice Zoo.

Franz West

Visual Arts Until Sunday 2 June,
Tate Modern, London

Ironic, irreverent, yet profoundly philosophical, Austrian artist Franz West (1947–2012) was a key figure in European art in the late 20th century. He brought a punk aesthetic into the pristine spaces of art galleries and his abstract sculptures, furniture, collages and large-scale works are direct, crude and unpretentious.

Tate Modern, Bankside, London SE1 9TG
www.tate.org.uk



Franz West, *Untitled*, 2007

Refuge, The Art of Belonging

Visual Arts Until Saturday 29 June,
Abbot Hall, Cumbria

This exhibition tells the story of artists who entered Britain as a result of Nazi occupation alongside a community project exploring the lives of refugees living in Cumbria.

Abbot Hall Art Gallery & Museum of Lakeland
Life & Industry, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5AL
www.lakelandarts.org.uk

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April

Hanna Bachmann Solo Piano Concert

Music Thursday 4 April, 7pm, ACF London

The young pianist Hanna Bachmann was born and raised in Vorarlberg. She completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees at the Mozarteum Salzburg with distinction and has performed throughout Europe. Some highlights of the current season include performances with the Sinfonietta Vorarlberg and the Bodenseefestival, as well as concert tours in the US, Canada and London.

Additional performances:

Friday 5 April, 1pm: Charlton House, Charlton Rd, Greenwich, London SE7 8RE
www.greenwichheritage.org/visit/charlton-house

Tuesday 9 April, 6.30pm: University Women's Club, 2 Audley Square, London W1K 1DB
www.universitywomensclub.com



Hanna Bachmann © Nancy Horowitz

European Poetry Festival – Austria

Literature Wednesday 10 April, 7pm,
ACF London

Three groundbreaking contemporary Austrian poets come to London to present

brand-new collaborations with UK-based counterparts. Featuring Sophie-Carolin Wagner & Nick Murray, Fabian Faltin & SJ Fowler, Frank Ruf & Han Smith.

The evening will open with solo readings by other European poets visiting for the festival including John Mateer, Keti Chukhrov, Mathura, Konstantinos Papacharalampos, Maria Malinovskaya, Andreja Štepec and more.

www.europeanpoetryfestival.com/austria

1989 & Beyond: The New Shape of Europe

Conference Thursday 11 April, 9am–5pm,
University College London

In a special Central European symposium Austrian politician and expert in Central and South Eastern Europe Dr Erhard Busek and theatre producer Bärbel Strehlau join renowned politicians, scholars and artists from the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and the UK to discuss the events around 1989, the current status of the EU and future European perspectives.

In cooperation with UCL School of Slavonic & East European Studies, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, Embassy of the Republic of Poland and Embassy of the Slovak Republic.

UCL Laws, Denys Holland Lecture Theatre, Bentham House, Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0EG

A Failed Play: Anna-Sophie Berger

Visual Arts Friday 12 April – Sunday 26 May,
Cell Project Space, London

'A Failed Play' is Anna-Sophie Berger's first solo exhibition in London and features a new installation, sculptures and prints. The installation will draw on her 2013 project *fashion is fast*, which was a 36-piece fashion collection. Berger studied fashion design at the University of



Anna-Sophie Berger, courtesy the artist and Cell Project Space

Applied Arts in Vienna and has exhibited widely in Austria and internationally.

Cell Project Space, 258 Cambridge Heath Rd, London E2 9DA; www.cellprojects.org

HVOB in Concert

Music Saturday 13 April, 6pm,
Electric Brixton

Following a sell-out European club tour last year, the Austrian electronic music duo HVOB returns to the big stage with a world concert tour coinciding with the release of their new album *ROCCO* (on Pias Records). Like the previous two HVOB releases, *ROCCO* also takes a conceptual approach relating 13 separate but dramaturgically connected narratives about letting go, farewells and new beginnings.

Electric Brixton, Town Hall Parade, Brixton, London SW2 1RJ; electricbrixton.uk.com



HVOB ©Andreas Jakwerth

Soap & Skin

Music Monday 15 April, 7.30pm, EarthH

The third album by Soap & Skin (aka Austrian musician and producer Anja Plaschg)

From Gas to Solid... marks her return with her first album in six years. Piano-led, like the last album, her recent compositions feature additional chamber orchestrations and electronic sounds.

EarthH, 11-17 Stoke Newington Rd, Stoke Newington, London N16 8BH
earthhackney.co.uk



Soap & Skin © Poly Maria

James Choice & The Bad Decisions UK Tour

Music Thursday 18 – Sunday 21 April,
UK Tour

Vienna's James Choice & The Bad Decisions will embark on a short tour of the UK supporting the release of their current album *The Something in Nothing* (Kleio Records, 2018). The four-headed Austrian/English band will spread their unique blend of singer-songwriter, indie and DIY charm across the UK.

UK Tour Dates:

Thursday 18 April: The Reindeer, Dereham Rd, Norwich NR2 4AY

Friday 19 April: Exchange Arts Centre, Russell St, Keighley BD21 2JZ
www.exchangearts.co.uk

Saturday 20 April: Manchester Punk Festival
manchesterpunkfestival.co.uk

Sunday 21 April: The Spice of Life, 6 Moor St, Soho, London W1D 5NA
www.spiceoflifesofo.com



James Choice © Matthias Heschl

Anita Bild, *A Cherry Dress*

Literature Wednesday 24 April, 7pm,
ACF London

The turbulent life of Vienna-born dancer, singer, actress and writer Anita Bild mirrors 20th-century Vienna with its political and cultural high- and lowlights. Her son Peter Bild and Dr Irene Messinger – co-editors of *A Cherry Dress* – present readings from this fascinating personal memoir, written for Anita's family in London, where she settled after fleeing her Nazi-ruled homeland. A short performance of Viennese cabaret by Ursula Baumgartl and Dr Igor Kennaway accompany the evening.

Making Theatre in Exile

Theatre Tuesday 30 April, 6pm,
The Senate Room

Delving into a suitcase full of sketches, songs, letters and more, three actors of theatre group [Foreign Affairs] explore the notion of making theatre in exile and what that means today.

Set shortly before the outbreak of WWII, a group of exiled writers and actors from Nazi-occupied Austria starts a theatre in London. By rekindling their Viennese tradition of political cabaret, they plan to bring a beacon of light to the bleak lives of a traumatised community.

The Senate Room, First Floor, Senate House,
Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

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May

BODHI PROJECT Dance Company

Dance Wednesday 1 & Friday 24 May,
Leeds & London

This spring, Salzburg's BODHI PROJECT returns to London and Leeds for this year's exchange programme. Together with UK-based postgraduate dance companies VERVE (Leeds) and EDge (London), BODHI PROJECT will present *No Human No Cry!* and *All I know of which I am not thinking* and give an interesting insight into their artistic worlds.

www.bodhiproject.at

Wednesday 1 May, Riley Theatre,
98 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4BH
www.nscd.ac.uk/riley-theatre

Friday 24 May, The Place, Robin Howard
Theatre, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1H 9PY
www.theplace.org.uk



BODHI Project © Francesco Scavetta

Illuminations VI

Literature Thursday 2 May, 7pm,
ACF London

The bonds between the literary communities of Austria and the UK were forged deeply in the shadow of WWII but existed, palpably, in the years before and after. Many of

Austria's most considerable and original authors chose the UK as their new home throughout the last century and this event celebrates those writers.

Seven contemporary artists will be asked to respond to the lives and works of Erich Fried, Mela Hartwig, Alfred Marnau, Theodor Kramer, Franz Baermann Steiner, Stella Rotenberg and HG Adler. Featuring Dominic Jaeckle, Andrea Capovilla, SJ Fowler, Stephen Watts and more to be announced.

www.theenemiesproject.com/illuminations

WriteAUT Literature Competition 2019: Prize Giving Ceremony and Reading

Literature Friday 3 May, 2pm, ACF London

WriteAUT, a collaboration between Austrian lecturers at UK and Irish universities, invites students to address the life and work of Austrian female artists such as Emilie Flöge, Alma Mahler-Werfel, Ingeborg Bachmann, Christine Nöstlinger, VALIE EXPORT and Soap&Skin. At the ceremony the two overall winners will be announced and excerpts from their texts will be read.

Gwendolyn

Film Friday 3 May, 8.15pm, Close-Up Film Centre

Gwendolyn Leick, the London-based Austrian protagonist of Ruth Kaaserer's latest film, is in her mid-sixties, barely weighs 52kg and is a three-time world champion in weightlifting. The film documents her return to training following a cancer diagnosis. Rather than rest, Gwendolyn fights the cancer lifting heavy weights in an East London gym as she prepares for the European Weightlifting Championships in Azerbaijan.

Austria, 2017, 85min, English, French, Portuguese, Azeri, Turkish with English subtitles, directed by Ruth Kaaserer

Close-Up Film Centre, 97 Sclater St, London E1 6HR; www.closeupfilmcentre.com

Thomas Renoldner at Flatpack Festival

Film Visual Arts Saturday 4 May, Flatpack Festival, Birmingham

Thomas Renoldner's new film *Don't Know What* will have its UK premiere in the Flatpack Festival Short Film Competition. The festival runs Tuesday 30 April – Sunday 5 May at various venues in Birmingham.

flatpackfestival.org.uk



Still from the film *Gwendolyn*



5k HD © Ingo Pertramer

5K HD

Music *Wednesday 8 May, Hackney Empire*

Austrian avant-garde ensemble 5K HD move fluently through jazz, dubstep, breakbeats, funk, pop and even progressive rock sounds. Their singer Mira Lu Kovacs is regarded as one of the most expressive voices in the scene. 5K HD released their debut *And To In A* to international critical acclaim, followed by lauded performances and sold-out shows all over Europe.

Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street,
London E8 1EJ; hackneyempire.co.uk

Transnational Spaces in Literature

Literature *Wednesday 8 May, 7pm,
ACF London*

This event brings together two writers whose works are inspired by the area around Lake Constance (Bodensee), which encompasses parts of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, and which has long been perceived as a transnational cultural space. Alissa Walser will read from *Am Anfang war die Nacht Musik* (2010), which tells the story of the enigmatic healer Franz Mesmer. Verena Roßbacher will read from *Ich war Diener im Hause Hobbs* (2018), a gripping story told through the untrustworthy eyes of a butler.

The readings will be in German and English and followed by a Q&A. The reading is part of the Bodensee conference (8–10 May 2019) at the University of London.

modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/19275

Austrian Acts at the Great Escape Festival

Music *Thursday 9 – Saturday 11 May, Brighton*

Austrian bands 5K HD and Petrol Girls have been invited to perform at this year's Great Escape Festival. Fresh and colourful Austrian avant-garde supergroup 5K HD are partly acoustic, partly electronic without ever losing sight of their pop sensibility. Petrol Girls, originally formed in London, are a feminist post-hardcore punk band with members from Austria, Lithuania and the UK.

greatestescapefestival.com

Our Way[s] of Life

Visual Arts *Exhibition opening: Tuesday
14 May, 6.30–8.30pm*

Exhibition continues until Friday 19 July

The ACF London, in partnership with Central Saint Martins and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, presents *Our Way[s] of Life*, an exhibition set against a Europe-wide backdrop of resurgent populist sentiment, nationalist politics and far-right movements. The exhibition features recent graduates from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, alongside UK-based artists, whose work explores the deployment of identity in modern political warfare, from traditional communities to cultural histories and family. Each artist acknowledges a unified European character, despite growing division.

Featuring: Albin Bergström, Alexandra Wanderer, Ann Muller, Calvin Z. Laing, Catharina Bond, Gašper Kunšič, Julien Segarra, LA GEORGETTA, Lukas Janitsch and Rosie McGinn. Curated by Elliott Burns and Pita Arreola Burns.

Those Goddamn Hippies

Music *Friday 17 May, 6.10pm, FOCUS Wales*

Those Goddamn Hippies is a musical collaboration between British singer and



Honey & Bunny © Sebastian Arlamovsky

multi-instrumentalist Tom Marsh and the Austrian guitarist/musician Mike Seidl. Their music is an elegant mix of electric and acoustic elements combined with singer-songwriter attitude.

FOCUS Wales: International Showcase Festival, 16–18 May 2019, Wrexham, Wales
www.focuswales.com

FOOD: Bigger than the Plate

Visual Arts Sunday 19 May – Sunday 20 October, V&A Museum

From gastronomic experiments to urban farming, this exhibition brings together the politics and pleasure of food to ask how the collective choices we make can lead to a more sustainable, just and delicious food future. Austrian duo Honey & Bunny (Sonja Stummerer & Martin Hablesreiter) will present a video, filmed at the V&A, which engages with the culture of dining, sustainability and the collection of the V&A itself.

V&A Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL; www.vam.ac.uk

Diary of an Expat

Theatre Monday 20 May, 7pm, ACF London

Directed by Austrian Katharina Reinhaller, *Diary of an Expat* tells the comic story of

the encounter between Cecilia, a modern migrant, and London, a contemporary El Dorado, craved by generations of young Europeans. Arriving in the UK nine years ago, with a suitcase full of hopes and dreams (and homemade pasta), Cecilia's mission begins: to become British while remaining deeply Italian. But hundreds of dubious jobs and weird encounters later, Cecilia finds herself among the chaos of Brexit, as the walls of multi-ethnic, glamorous London crumble around her.

Why Life is Worth Living: Friedl Kubelka vom Gröller

Film Visual Arts Literature
 Wednesday 29 May, 8.20pm, BFI London

Making a very rare UK appearance, renowned Austrian avant-garde photographer and filmmaker Friedl Kubelka vom Gröller will personally present a selection of her carefully observed documentary portrait films made between 1969 and 2018. She is joined by Dietmar Schwärzler, Austrian artist, film distributor and editor of the new book *Friedl Kubelka vom Gröller. One Is Not Enough. Photography & Film II* (Buchverlag Walther König & Index 2018).

BFI London, Southbank, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 8XT; www.bfi.org.uk

CineClub

In 2019 CineClub investigates the relationship between Austrian cinema and genre. We continue in the spring with a closer look at Austrian historical period dramas from the silent era to current festival highlights.

CineConcert: Sodom and Gomorrah: The Legend of Sin and Punishment

Tuesday 2 April, 7pm, ACF London

For this silent epic Vienna's Laaer Berg area served as the biblical backdrop as set constructions were far too extensive for the Sievering and Rosenhügel Studios. The film is still considered the largest and most expensive production ever undertaken in Austria.

Austria, 1922, 180min, directed by Michael Curtiz (Mihaly Kertész)



Still from the film *Angelo*

Angelo

Thursday 11 April, 7pm, ACF London

In his second feature film Austrian director Markus Schleinzer tells the life story of an African slave, Angelo Soliman, who was integrated into 18th-century Viennese aristocracy. The film is both formally stunning and politically seething.

Austria, Luxembourg, 2018, 111min, German / French with English subtitles, directed by Michael Schleinzer



Still from the film *Licht*

The White Ribbon

Tuesday 23 April, 7pm, ACF London

Michael Haneke's Palme d'Or-winning film darkly depicts society and family in a northern German village just before World War I.

Germany, Austria, France & Italy, 2009, 144min, German, Italian and Polish with English subtitles, directed by Michael Haneke

Licht (Mademoiselle Paradis)

Thursday 16 May, 7pm, ACF London

This period drama, situated in 18th-century Vienna, tells the story of Maria Theresia von Paradis, a blind pianist and contemporary of Mozart.

Austria, Germany, 2017, 97min, German / French with English subtitles, directed by Barbara Albert

Mozart

Thursday 23 May, 7pm, ACF London

This lavish costume drama was entered into the 1956 Cannes Film Festival. The plot explores the mental state of Mozart, played by Oskar Werner, during production of his final opera *Die Zauberflöte*.

Austria, 1955, 100min, German with English subtitles, directed by Karl Hartl

Amour Fou

Thursday 30 May, 7pm, ACF London

Set in Berlin during the Romantic Era, Jessica Hausner's accomplished costume drama is based on the life and death of the 19th-century author Heinrich von Kleist.

Austria, 2014, 95min, German with English subtitles, directed by Jessica Hausner

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May

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Visitor Information

The Austrian Cultural Forum London promotes cultural contacts between the UK and Austria by organising events and supporting artists and projects in the fields of music, performing arts, visual arts, literature, film and science.

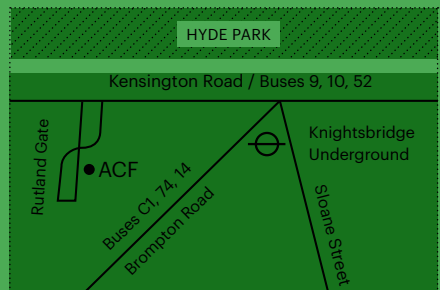
Austrian Cultural Forum London
28 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PQ

Opening hours
Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm

T 020 7225 7300
E office@acflondon.org
www.acflondon.org

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Events at the ACF London are FREE.
Space is limited so please book in advance.



Cover Image: Alexandra Wanderer, *Vânătă, Vânătaie* (Aubergine, Bruise), video still (2019), from the exhibition *Our Way[s] of Life*.

Design by Polimekanos